

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SPM-01 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 IO-13 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 115861

R 171515Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4680

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 191

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 1396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SF, BC

SUBJ: CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS

REF: GABORONE 1328 (NOTAL)

1. GOB OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT
AT 1600 GMT ON FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER CONCERNING SHOOTING
OF MINERS AT CARLETONVILLE. GEGIN TEXT: THE BOTSWANA
GOVERNMENT HAS LEARNT WITH DEEP SHOCK OF THE KILLING BY
THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE AT CARLETONVILLE MINE OF ELEVEN
AFRICAN MINERS, AMONG THEM TWO CITIZENS OF BOTSWANA
THE GOVERNMENT DEPLORES THE FACT THAT NEITHER THE MINE
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OWNERS NOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES SAW FIT TO INFORM

THE BOTSWANA AUTHORITIES THAT THE VICITIMS INCLUDED BOTSWANA CITIZENS. IT WAS AFTER HEARING A REPORT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RADIO THAT THE BOTSWANA AUTHORITIES DIRECTED EQUIREES TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE MINE OWNERS. OFFICIAL CONCIRMATION OF THE DEATHS AND THE NAMES OF THE DECEASED WERE RECIEVED IN GOBORONE LATE THIS MORNING, THREE DAYS AFTER THE SHOOTING. IT IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY THAT ELEVEN MEN SHOULD HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THEY, DENIED OF ANY BARGAINING MACHINERY WERE MOVED BY A DEEP SENSE OF FRUSTRATION TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY TERMS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT. BOTSWANA HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED ITS FEARS THAT THE CONTINUED DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE BLACK MAN BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL RESULT IN VIOLENCE. END TEXT.

2. GOB OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH BOTH SAG AND THE MINE OWNERS--ANGLO AMERICAN -- OVER THEIR FAILURE TO PROMPTLY NOTIFY GOB OF THE INCIDENT AND PROVED FULL DETAILS. THEY NOTE THAT ANGLO AMERICAN HAS EXTENSIVE INVESTMENTS IN BOTSWANA AND ADD THAT ANGLO'S FAILURE TO RESPONDE TO GOB QUERIES MAY HAVE DAMAGED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES. ON FIRDAY, 14 SEPT ANGLO AMERICAN/ DE BEERS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD ESTABLISH A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE IN GABORONE IN OCTOBER. ONE SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL NOTED THAT SUCH OFFICE WOULD BE NEEDED TO REPAIR ANGLO'S IMAGE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOB. NELSON

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